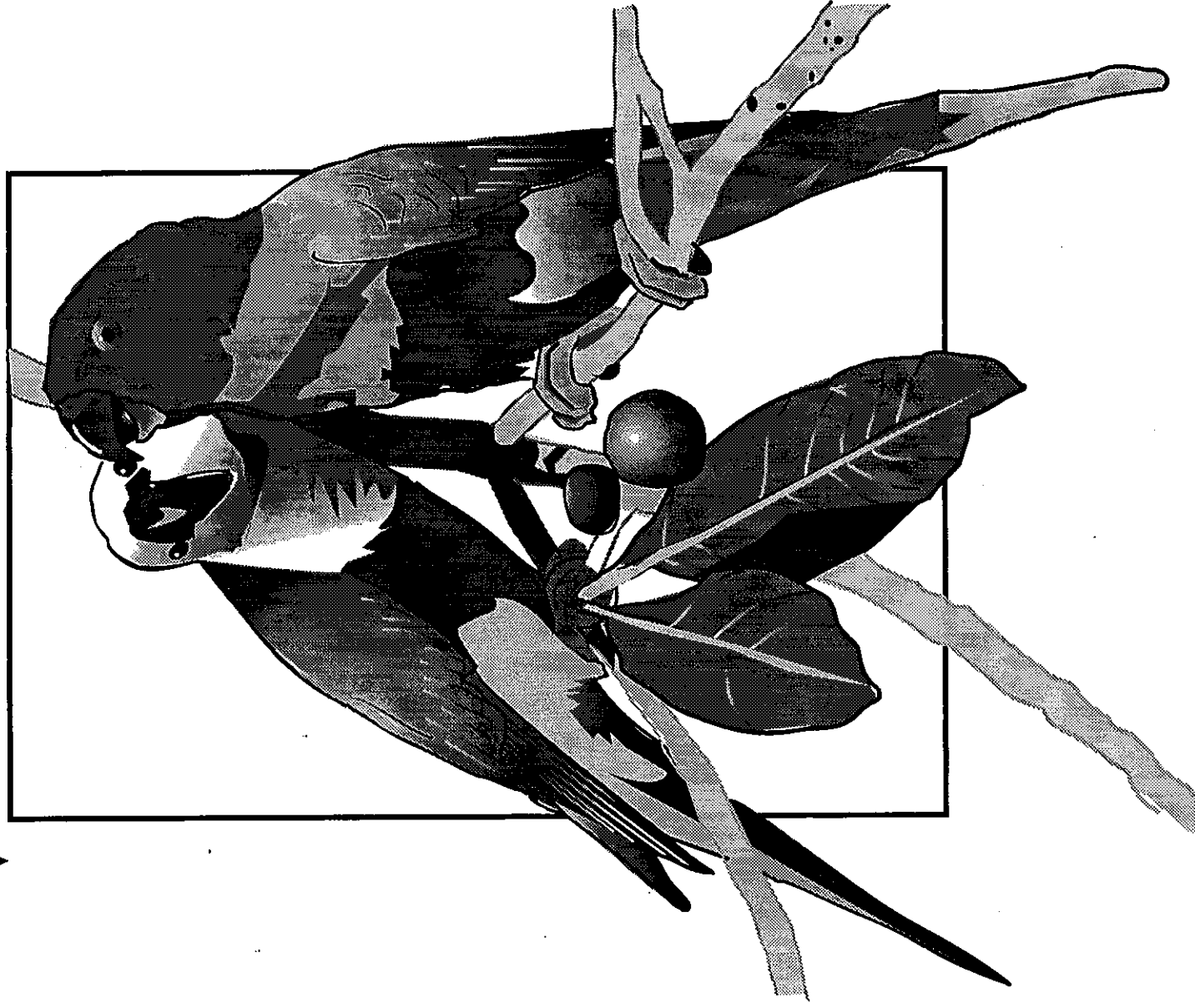


ACTIVITY
6

**HOW SEEDS
SPREAD**



Key Ideas

Seeds need to travel away from the parent plant and from each other so that they have room to grow.

Seeds can travel in different ways.

The way seeds travel depends on their texture, shape and size.

Some seeds are spread when the fruit they are in is eaten by animals.

Some plants have a large number of seeds and others have a small number of seeds.

Work Requirements

Students will:

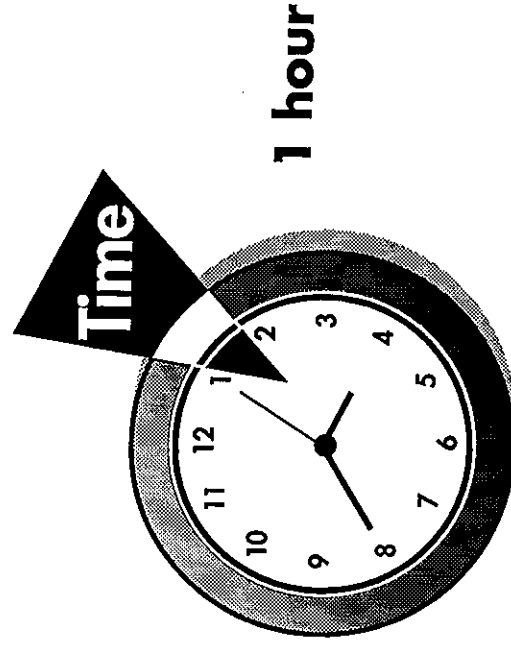
- investigate how seeds travel away from the parent plant
- use the information sheet to decide how particular seeds have spread.

Teacher Preparation

Collect some different types of seeds from fruit and flowers.

Materials

seeds
paper
pencils
collection of old socks
Task Card 2
Information Sheet 4



Student Tasks

FOCUS

Class: Look at the different seeds.
Can you work out how they might spread?

INVESTIGATE

Class: Do Task Card 2, The Old Sock Walk.

PROCESS DATA

Class: Look at the seeds you collected.
What made them stick to your socks?
What else could these seeds stick to?

INVESTIGATE

Small groups: Look at your collection of seeds.
Would they all be spread in the same way?
Find out how they might spread.
Use the information on Information Sheet 4.

EVALUATE

Discussion: Does the size, shape and texture of the seed affect the way it is spread?
Which method of seed spreading is the most common in your community?
Draw the different ways seeds are spread.

Vocabulary

seeds
spread
dispersal
size
shape
texture
deposited
affect
explosive action

CULTURAL CONSIDERATIONS

Students need to collect various seeds that are available and write down their names in their own language etc. An older person from the community could visit and talk to the children, where the person feels comfortable.

Information Sheet 4



How Seeds Spread

There are many ways that seeds can be spread.

By Wind

Some seeds and fruit are very small and light. It is very easy for these to be carried by the wind.

Some seeds have 'wings'. It is very easy for the wind to carry these seeds.

By Water

Some fruits stay in the water for a long time. They might float around in the sea or a river or lake. They can be carried a long way by the water.

By Animal

Some animals eat fruit and spit out the seeds. Sometimes they swallow the seeds and the seeds are deposited when they are passed through the animal's body.

Some fruits and seeds have hooks and burrs which stick to the fur of an animal and can be carried a long way.

By Explosive Action

Fruits fall from the trees and dry out. They then burst open.



OLD SOCK WALK

What You Need

1 or 2 old socks

An area near the school with some different grasses

What You Do

- 1 Put on an old sock. You could put it over your shoe.
If you have two socks put one on each foot.
- 2 Go for a walk around the school.
Walk through the grass and dirt.
- 3 Go back to the classroom and take the socks off.
- 4 Remove any seeds that you can find on the socks.
- 5 Look closely at the seeds.
What made them stick to your socks?